It’s hard to be a cougar in the American West.

In the State of Washington, despite the passage of Prop 155, the legislature has called for lion hunts using “public safety” as the ploy. MLF has been participating in the public comment period, pointing out both the scientific flaws and the betrayal of the voters embodied in the hunts.

In Oregon, MLF has joined 14 other groups to sue the US Fish and Wildlife Service. There, wildlife agencies plan to use $5.2 million to kill off up to half the cougars in two regions just to see what will happen to elk populations when they do. Although officials there claim that elk numbers are dwindling, they have not stopped the trophy hunt of these beautiful animals.

This fake “science” tactic is alive and equally ugly in Arizona and New Mexico. MLF strongly protested the Arizona plan during the formal commenting period as was recently featured in a press release announcing a possible lawsuit to stop the cougar slaughter.

MLF is still looking for a way to help New Mexico, given limited staff and resources. Fortunately, good people are there helping mountain lions as best they can.

In Colorado, wildlife officials proposed killing up to 15,000 deer in addition to the regular hunting season. MLF sent a strong letter scientifically outlining the disaster likely to result from that action. We have received word that our effort was instrumental in narrowing the scope of that attempt. MLF knew that the absence of deer would drive hungry mountain lions into populated areas where the cougars would be killed as well.

In Wyoming, thousands fell in love with a cougar that took up residence on a butte outside the Elk refuge. Visible with scopes, she and her family of three cubs were captured in a stunning book and (soon) documentary. The next year, wildlife officials increased the hunting quota on lions and she has not been since.

Galvanizing around this tragedy, outraged citizens of Jackson Hole called upon MLF for assistance. With our help, they are working out ways to help protect cougars.

Elsewhere, mountain lions are just part of the regular hunting season.

Regardless of where lions are hunted or the stated reason that mountain lions are hunted — trophy, fake science, legitimate public safety or depredation permits — the end result is the same. The lions are relentlessly tracked with a pack of radio-collard hounds, until the exhausted lion takes refuge in a tree. At that point the lion is shot, point-blank, off a limb. If the lion is a female, she probably leaves behind cubs who will either starve, be eaten by predators, or get into trouble searching for food and get shot for depredation.

MLF remains committed to stopping the senseless slaughter. As membership grows and funds increase, MLF can help more and more throughout the country. Lions don’t stop at political boundaries. With your help, neither will we.
Good Neighbors Protect Lions

Mountain Lion
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What you can do

Talk to your neighbors about predator friendly living. Call (916)442-2666 and ask for a supply of door hangers for “Living in Lion Country”.

We also have a new video that you could help you start the dialogue. On Nature’s Terms is a 26-minute documentary by PBS film maker John de Graff and former MLF Director Sharon Negri. To learn more about this offer, contact MLF headquarters.

Good Neighbors Protect Lions

Lion researchers Ken Logan and Linda Sweeney watched helplessly as twelve-month old cougar cub, “M-3” waited for days on the ridge for his mother to come home.

M-3 did not know that his mother had been shot while getting dinner together. Hungry herself, with a growing boy to feed, the mother had come across an unattended sheep that solved her problem. Her instincts, however, got her killed on a depredation permit.

Finally, attempting to stay close to where his mother left him, M-3 ventured forth to relieve the growing hunger. He found another unattended goat and goose.

AND NOW M-3 IS DEAD TOO.

“This is one of the saddest situations I’ve seen,” said Logan. After coming here from other Western states, Logan says he is shocked by what he calls some Californians’ ignorance, and lack of responsibility for their animals.

“The majority of California voters decided they wanted to protect the lion,” he continued, “but they are threatening them by building all over their habitat and putting them at higher risk of road kill, encounters with humans, and depredation permit kills.”

Logan particularly laments people living in lion habitat that do not take responsibility for keeping their pets out of harm’s way and therefore threatening the fate of many carnivores.

He expressed surprise that people put up with this behavior.

“If I had a neighbor that left a pet or hobby animal outside at night,” Logan said, “I’d go talk to him and tell him I had a young son that he was putting in danger because he was basically “baiting” predators into the neighborhood.”

In fact, Logan says he would offer to help him build a predator-proof enclosure.

Logan said that a lot of the problems could be solved by applying common sense about predators and by being more neighborly.

All over California, the number of mountain lions killed for preying on domestic animals continues to increase (see table on page 8).

In the eight months since the Mountain Lion Foundation began its Living with Lions program, staff has made great strides towards finding solutions to this situation. Thanks to the Goldman Fund, Doelger Foundation and MLF members like you, some hope is emerging that this unnecessary carnage can be drastically reduced.

The better depredation permits and patterns are understood, the better staff can recognize patterns and focus in on the actions that will address them.

Reviewing the permit documentation, it becomes clear that many of the people requesting depredation permits are repeat customers. Although the names of permittees are deleted, the records show kills from the same geographic locations, time and again, year after year. It appears that a relatively small universe of people, in
identifiable areas, receive permits for a large number of kills.

This would indicate that targeted efforts to change their attitudes or behavior may be more practical than previously believed. Further, the consistency of these requests makes the case that killing a lion does not “solve” a depredation problem.

Drive down almost any country road and you will see goats, sheep, chickens, dogs, and other domestic animals tied up in a yard or penned in enclosures that prevent escape but are not designed to keep predators out. While traditional cattle and sheep ranchers may draw on a long history of methods for protecting their livestock, many hobby farmers, weekend ranchers, and rural pet owners can not.

Interviews with Department of Fish and Game personnel and rural residents living in mountain lion habitat have clarified that many of the kills are due to a lack of responsibility on the part of these small scale animal owners. Some may simply need to be educated how best to live in cougar country. Others may need to be persuaded that their actions are putting their neighbors at risk.

It only takes one person to attract wild animals to human neighborhoods, whether it is by leaving domestic animals outside or by feeding deer and other natural prey species. For those few who insist on “baiting” predators by leaving small animals unattended, it might be necessary to require some common sense responsibilities by law, rather than continuing to issue permit after permit.

Living with Lions staff has also discovered that the geographic areas most affected by lions are changing. Permit numbers in Southern California are diminishing as the mountain lion population near urban centers is reduced through loss of habitat.

Kills in the Sierra Nevada continue to spike as thousands of new residents move up into the foothills. Permits in wine growing areas such as San Luis Obispo peak and then ebb, as rows of grapes replace lion habitat, and displaced cougars seek new territories and take domestic animals in transit.

MLF has begun to analyze the initial 2001 depredation data from DFG Headquarters and will continue to do so as permits arrive from the regional offices. The preliminary data indicates that 197 permits were issued in 2001, which resulted in the deaths of 111 lions. Of great concern is that at least 14 lions were killed as the result of conflicts with pets, more than in 2000.

MLF staff is under no illusion that these changes will be simple. A ban on trophy hunting required no behavior changes on the part of anyone but about 150 people in the state. Reducing depredation permit kills will require tens of thousands of people to learn how to live in lion country and then to change their lifestyles accordingly.

At the same time, MLF members have faced great challenges before and risen to the occasion. The wildlife with whom we share this land we love, indeed the very land itself, depends upon it.
Try this new look on for size on any or all of your favorite items!

**T-shirt** - 100% cotton 6.1 ounce T-shirt that is natural color with a full front image of the new MLF logo. Children sizes: M, L, XL Adult sizes: S-2XL. $12.00

**Convention Tote Bag** - Natural color with the new MLF logo. Bag dimensions are 14”wx14”hx3”d, 12 ounce cotton canvas, cotton web handles. Perfect to take to the farmers market. $8.00

**Glass Coffee Mug** - Enjoy your 10-oz. cup of coffee while helping Protect California’s Last Great Predator. $5.00

**Mouse Pad** - Feel better while working by showing your coworkers that you support the Lions. $5.00

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**LITTLE CATS**
A BOBBIE KALMAN BOOK

From domestic housecats to the rare manul, young readers will enjoy learning about all the different cats in the small cat family. Children will treasure the brilliant color photos of kittens and adult cats alike. $5.95

**“WALK ON THE WILD SIDE” FANNY PACK**

This eye-catching, multi-pocketed pack is designed with both the outdoor enthusiast and traveler in mind. Made from heavyweight premium cotton canvas, its six pockets can carry everything you need for an active day. The center pouch is perfect for your water bottle or camera lens. $17.95

Please use the enclosed envelope.
VOICE FROM THE SEA

"My notebooks are deeper than favorite things. They are things that say something to me. And beautiful things. I love the power of a beautiful expression, I love to read it, and when I find it, it gives me quiet pleasure. The choicest bits I’ve ever jotted down in notebooks have been what I observed as I walked along or drove along or I was on a hike and sat down on a rock and jotted down the moment, the absolute moment of hearing this birdsong, or watching an incident happen... Things like that help me. There are a lot of things in these notebooks that help me personally, and they might help other people, too.” — Margaret Owings

“Voice from the Sea”, MLF Founder Margaret Owings’ final work, is a compilation of prose, poetry and drawings from throughout her career. This beautiful and inspiring book captures both her spirit and her dedication to all that is wild and beautiful.

Use the enclosed envelope to order. $19.95

SPIRIT OF THE ROCKIES

“Spirit of the Rockies” by world-famous photographer Thomas Mangelsen and Cara Shea Blessley is a stunning book, documenting 42 days in the life of a cougar and her three cubs. High above the elk refuge in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, these cougars captured the imagination of hundreds who sought a glimpse of the elusive animals.

Add this book to your collection of magical inspiration. Let it serve as a constant reminder of what is at stake in our quest to save *puma concolor* and ourselves. $19.95

Please use the enclosed envelope.
Scientific Meeting Features Mountain Lion Conservation

For the first time in history, a scientific gathering will include sessions on mountain lion conservation. The Mountain Lion Foundation has organized three groundbreaking sessions on the conservation of mountain lions for the “Carnivores 2002” conference this fall.

Needless to say, the sessions have attracted many of the nation’s top mountain lion experts, including Ken Logan, Linda Sweanor, Paul Beier, David Macr, Steve Torres, Rick Hopkins, Ray Sauvajot, Kevin Crooks, and Holly Ernest.

“Folks are hungry for this topic,” says MLF’s Conservation Biologist, Chris Papouchis, who is organizing the sessions. “Even the national cougar conferences have not looked seriously at the issues surrounding conservation of mountain lions, but instead have focused almost exclusively on hunting strategies, demographics, and physiology.”

The first of the three sessions will explore how lions can be effectively managed while their populations are also conserved and sustained. The second will examine how scientists use the presence of cougars to create effective wildlife corridors between isolated habitats. The third session will look at how cougar conservation is affected by hunting strategies, “conflicts” with other species, heavy human use of natural areas, and other trends.

Because MLF is science-based, staff has promoted, and sometimes insisted, that carnivore meetings include mountain lion conservation as a topic.

“When scientists and managers only talk about how many mountain lions you can kill, or how big they get to be,” says Papouchis, “the most important part of the conversation never happens.”

MLF supporters are encouraged to attend this event in Monterey, California on November 17-20. More information and registration forms can be found at the website for Defenders of Wildlife: www.defenders.org/carnivores2002.
PLANNED GIVING

Planned giving isn’t just for dead people. Planned giving is any kind of gift that requires some planning and, perhaps, assistance. Usually, it provides some tax or income benefits for the donor or heirs. Always, it provides a way to stretch your time on earth by leaving a legacy that benefits the things you care about long after you depart.

So what does this have to do with you? Planned giving can be an important part of your financial plan. You can realize significant benefits while taking pride in having helped protect the mountain lion.

Benefits from planned giving can include:
- Making sure your dreams don’t die with you
- Income and tax savings
- Regular payments of income
- Being a good role model for your heirs
- Solving potential family disputes over property
- Ease in giving

SOME WAYS TO GIVE:
- Offer gifts to MLF of appreciated stock or other property
- Include MLF in your will or trust
- Establish a charitable remainder trust
- Donate your old car or vehicle to MLF as a charitable tax write off
- Participate in corporate matching gift programs
- Designate MLF as your “preferred” recipient in your employee giving campaign (EarthShare or United Way)
- If EarthShare is not included in your employer’s giving program, contact us and ask for it to be included.
- Make MLF the beneficiary of one of your IRAs
- Set your on-line banking program to automatically send a small (or large!) check every month
- Call and arrange a regular automatic credit card payment

The Mountain Lion Foundation is a charitable nonprofit educational organization.
Our Federal ID number is 94-3015360

MLF

YOU ARE INVITED

Bring a friend to an informative evening on the subject of Living with Lions.

Join wildlife biologists and MLF staff on June 5 from 7-9 p.m. at Sonoma Barracks State Park. Learn about the biology of mountain lions and their essential contributions to California’s ecosystems. Find out how to increase your family’s safety and protect your pets and livestock in cougar company.

This program, funded by the California State Parks Foundation, the Gabilan Foundation, and MLF members is part of a larger series of seminars designed to education park rangers and docents about lions.

The program will be in the barracks at E Spain Street and 1st Street East in Sonoma. Contact MLF for details.

MLF
## Mountain Lions Killed in California as a Result of Property Damage (Depredation Permits)

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*Preliminary results for 2001

Corrected numbers: disregard all previous editions.

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